

## Message Text

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43

ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PC-01

AID-05 IGA-01 ABF-01 RSC-01 /039 W

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R 021015Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7289

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, TS

SUBJECT: FY 1974 PEACE CORPS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 236947

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR ASSESSMENT IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS  
RAISED PARA 5 REFTEL:

A. REF ARRIVED AS PC/TUNISIA WAS ABOUT TO OPEN DIS-  
CUSSIONS IN EFFORT INCREASE TUNISIAN CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE PROGRAM. WHILE SOME GOT OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY  
IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAY RESIST IDEA OF  
INCREASE, IT OUR BEST JUDGMENT THAT MOST OPERATING  
MINISTRIES WHO VALUE PCVS WILL SEE LOGIC IN REQUEST  
AND WILL MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOME INCREASE  
IN CONTRIBUTIONS.

B. NOT APPLICABLE SINCE GOT ALREADY MAKING  
SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION.

C. NOT APPLICABLE FOR SAME REASON.

D. TERMINATION OF PC PROGRAM IS NOT ISSUE. HOWEVER,  
PC/TUNISIA CURRENTLY INVOLVED A.I.D. FUNDED CARE/MEDICO  
WELLS PROJECT (8 PCVS), A.I.D. IMPLEMENTED AND SUPPORTED  
NUTRITION/HEALTH PROGRAM (7 PCVS), AND LIVESTOCK AND  
AGRICULTURE EXTENSION PROGRAMS (5 PCVS). MOREOVER,  
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RECRUITMENT CURRENTLY ON FOR ADDITIONAL LIVESTOCK PCVS

WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT IMPLEMENTATION  
AND TRAINING STAGES THESE PROJECTS.

E. AS INDICATED, WE BELIEVE GOT IS LIKELY AGREE  
TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE CORPS SUPPORT THEREBY,  
HOPEFULLY, OBTAINING ANY FURTHER PHASING DOWN OF PEACE  
CORPS PROGRAM IN TUNISIA. IF FACED WITH CHOICE, HOW-  
EVER, WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO SEE PHASE-DOWN OF PEACE  
CORPS PROGRAM AT THIS TIME, OR IF REDUCTION OF PROGRAM  
WERE TO TAKE PLACE NOW, WE BELIEVE THAT NO AMOUNT OF  
EXPLANATION RE BUDGETARY FACTORS WOULD BE LIKELY ERASE  
GOT BELIEF THAT REDUCTION WAS FURTHER PROOF OF WHAT  
IT ALREADY SUSPECTS IS DECREASING U.S. INTEREST IN  
TUNISIA. THUS, WE HAVE REDUCED A.I.D. PROGRAMS SUB-  
STANTIALLY AND INFORMED GOT THAT CHANCES FOR PL 480  
TITLE I PROGRAM ARE SLIGHT, WE WILL BE ELIMINATING  
MILITARY GRANT AID AT THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR AND  
WE HAVE HAD TO RAISE PROBLEMS WITH GOT ON MAP/FMS  
WHICH HAVE CREATED CERTAIN CREDIBILITY GAP. IN ADDITION  
WE HAVE TURNED DOWN REPEATED EFFORTS BY GOT TO OBTAIN  
COMMITMENT TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION  
OF MODEL HOSPITAL WHICH IS DEAR TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S  
HEART AND SO FAR HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE ENCOURAGE SUBSTANTIAL  
NEW PRIVATE US INVESTMENT TO SERVE AS ALTERNATIVE TO  
BILATERAL AID IN TRANSFER OF US CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY  
TO TUNISIA. FINALLY WE HAVE INFORMED GOT THAT  
MEDITERRANEAN MARINE SORTING CENTER (SMITHSONIAN) WILL  
CEASE TO BENEFIT FROM USG SUPPORT AT THE END OF THIS  
FISCAL YEAR. PEACE CORPS PROGRAM ALREADY REDUCED FROM  
125 VOLUNTEERS IN FY 74 TO 95 VOLUNTEERS IN FY 75  
BECAUSE OF RECRUITMENT SHORTFALLS. AS DEPT WILL NOTE  
ABOVE RUNDOWN IS UNFORTUNATELY IMPRESSIVE. WE WOULD  
NOT LIKE TO SEE PEACE CORPS ADDED TO LIST.

2. PER PARA 7, TUNISIA'S CURRENT CONTRIBUTION IS  
\$100 PER PCV PER MONTH IN CASH, PLUS APPROX \$9,000 PER  
YEAR IN KIND. USING COMPARISON BASED ON PER CAPITA  
GNP OVER HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTION PER PCV ONLY PEACE  
CORPS NANEAP-REGION COUNTRIES CITED REFTEL WITH HIGHER  
CONTRIBUTION QUOTIENT ARE KOREA AND THAILAND. THAILAND  
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IS APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF IN KIND AND KOREA IS ALMOST  
ENTIRELY (98 PERCENT) IN KIND. AS INDICATED, WE  
BELIEVE TUNISIANS WILL AGREE TO SOME INCREASE, BUT IN  
VIEW THEIR ALREADY SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION, WE DO NOT  
THINK THEY SHOULD BE ASKED FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE SO  
THAT PROGRAMS ELSEWHERE CAN LIVE AT TUNISIAN EXPENSE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUDGETS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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